

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABU DH 01002 170922Z

12
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 COME-00 FEA-01 TRSE-00

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P 170830Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4211

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ABU DHABI 1002

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, EAID (SHAIKH SULTAN OF SHARJAH)

SUBJ: RULER OF SHARJAH TO MAKE PRIVATE VISIT TO U.S.

REF: ABU DHABI 0962

1. SHAIKH SULTAN OF SHARJAH TELLS ME HE IS MAKING PRIVATE VISIT OF ABOUT ONE-WEEK'S DURATION TO THE US MAY 1-7. HE HAS BEEN INVITED BY PRESIDENT MASON OF CHARTER COMPANY, WITH WHOM SULTAN HAS HAD DISCUSSIONS ABOUT BUILDING REFINERY IN SHARJAH, AND WHO IS PUTTING HIS COMPANY AIRCRAFT AT DISPOSAL OF THE RULER FOR TRIP. SULTAN'S ITINERARY IS AS FOLLOWS: EVENING MAY 1 AND FORE-NOON MAY 2 IN WASHINGTON; MAY 2-4 IN CHICAGO WHERE HE IS MAKING APPEARANCE AT ISLAMIC CENTER AND VISITING SEVERAL FIRMS; MAY 5-7 AT WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA WHERE HE WILL BE HOUSE-GUEST OF MASON; MAY 8 RETURN TO SHARJAH. HE ALSO PLANS TO MAKE TRIP TO HOUSTON AS GUEST BUTTES OIL COM. SOMETIME DURING MAY 5-7 PERIOD.

2. I ASKED SHAIKH SULTAN IF WE COULD BE OF ANY SURVICE. HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION BUT SAID EVERYTHING SEEMED TO BE BEING TAKEN CARE OF BY CHARTER AND HE DID NOT BELIEVE HE WOULD NEED TO CALL ON US. HOWEVER, IF WE THOUGHT IT USEFUL FOR HIM TO CALL ON ANYONE AT THE DEPARTMENT HE WOULD HAVE MORNING OF MAY 2 FREE TO DO THIS. I SAID I THOUGHT THE DEPARTMENT WOULD WELCOME THIS, AND PROMISED TO BE BACK IN TOUCH WITH HIM BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE.

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3. ACTION REQUESTED: AS DEPARTMENT KNOWS, SHAIKH SULTAN IS ONE OF OUR BEST FRIENDS IN THIS COUNTRY. OIL CONCESSIONAIRE IN HIS SHAIKHDOM (CRESCENT) IS EXCLUSIVELY AMERICAN AND HE HAS MADE SPECIAL EFFORT TO BRING OTHER AMERICAN FIRMS IN ON BOOMING DEVELOPMENT OF SHARJAH ECONOMY. HE IS ABOUT TO SIGN CONTRACT WITH SEATRAN FOR MANAGEMENT OF HIS TWO PORTS (SHARJAH AND KHOR FAKKAN ON EAST COAST) IN IMMAGINATIVE EFFORT TO MAKE SHARJAH MOST MODERN AND EFFICIENT CARGO TRANSSHIPMENT PORT IN UAE, WITH SPECIAL CAPABILITY TO HANDLE CONTAINERIZED CARGO. SULTAN MOREOVER WILL UNDOUBTEDLY PLAY IMPORTANT ROLE IN FEDERAL AFFAIRS IN FUTURE, AND IS RUMORED TO BE SHAIKH ZAYED'S CHOICE FOR NEXT PRIME MINISTER. BELIEVE IT WOULD BE PARTICULARLY APPROPRIATE IF SHAIKH SULTAN COULD MEET WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY ROBINSON ON MORNING OF MAY 2. IN ADDITION, SULTAN IS INTERESTED IN KNOWING MORE ABOUT AID'S PROGRAM FOR COUNTRY FINANCED TECHNICAL SERVICES AND I BELIEVE HE WOULD WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH MR. PARKER AND BILL KENDRICK FOR BRIEFING ON TIS SUBJECT.

4. PLEASE ADVISE ASAP WHETHER THESE APPOINTMENTS CAN BE ARRANGED.
STERNER

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